

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants cancel Claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new Claims 19-32. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of copending Application No. 09/751424, currently published as US Patent Publication Number 2003/0167301. The Examiner states, “This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.”

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-18 with this Response, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 12, and 18 stand objected to because of various alleged informalities.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 6, 12, 1 and 18, thereby rendering moot these objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Salesky et al. (USPN 6,343,313).

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-18 with this Response, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

New Claims

New Claims 19-31 have been added with this Response to further define Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 19-32 are fully supported by the Application as filed, add no new matter, and are allowable over the prior art of record.


CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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Respectfully submitted,

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